

**National BLM Wildland Fire Training Committee Meeting
Albuquerque, NM
November 16, 2006**

Attendees: Aitor Bidaburu, NIFC; Charley Luevano, New Mexico; Rick Lang, Montana; Troy Phelps, Nevada; Tony Doty, Alaska; Katie McConnell, Oregon; Mike Spencer, Oregon; Lynn Cook, Utah; Don Washco, NTC

Guests: Al Olson, NIFC; Pam McDonald, NIFC; Ramon Stovell, NTC

Committee Leadership Positions

The Committee voted the following individuals into leadership positions:

Aitor Bidaburu – Chairperson (2007 through 2008)

Rick Lang – Vice Chairperson (2007 through 2008)

Paul Bannister – National Operations Committee Representative

The Committee will review the charter at a later date to determine if the time commitments for committee leadership positions are sufficient or whether the chairperson should be held by the BLM Training Unit Leader and the vice chairperson remain a two-year term.

Conference Call Revisited

IS 700/800

“On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. HSPD-5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.”
(<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

Along with HSPD-5, certain NIMS training courses were required for first responders. A copy of the NIMS Training Guidelines for FY 2006: IS-700, IS-800, ICS 100-400 is attached identifying required training courses for (1) entry level first responders and disaster workers, (2) first line supervisors, (3) middle management, and (4) command and general staff.

Although an official BLM memorandum has not been issued making IS-700 and IS-800 mandatory courses for BLM fire personnel, individuals are encouraged to take the online courses in anticipation of official notification.

FEMA offers free online courses through the Emergency Management Institute at:

<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiWeb/IS/is700.asp>

<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is800a.asp>

Committee members were advised that Rick Jensen will not put the courses into IQCS until an official memorandum is issued.

ACTION: Place a link on the H-9215-2 Web site for online access to the IS-700/800 courses. (Pam McDonald)

L-380 Equivalency for S-420

The IOSWT denied interagency L-380 equivalency for S-420.

The BLM is pursuing avenues for an equivalency alternative should one be necessary. The Committee will monitor the fire community to identify possible alternatives.

BLM TRAINING UNIT PROJECT STATUS

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher

The BLM Training Unit is in the process of completing the 2007 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher with potential deliver sometime in February or March.

The program will transition to NWCG in 2008. A dedicated position has been created on the NWCG staff for the refresher.

The Committee discussed the need to have the refresher program available no later than February 1 of each year.

Prescribed Fire On-the-Job Training Program

Al Olson will be the Prescribed Fire On-the-Job Training Program coordinator replacing Aitor Bidaburu who replaced Larry Sutton as BLM Fire Training Unit Leader.

Funding is available to assist individuals who must travel outside their home units to meet training qualifications. The BLM Training Unit is working with New Mexico BLM to provide RX fire training opportunities. Units are encouraged to notify Al Olson of potential RX fire training opportunities.

Training officers and fire personnel are encouraged to nominate individuals for the program. Information regarding the process can be found on the BLM Training Web site at <http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/RXOJT.html>.

Other Projects

Other projects that the BLM Training Unit are currently involved with include Technical Fire Management, ENOP, ATV, batch mixer, international/military mobilization, and the H-9215-2 Handbook.

BLM Fire and Aviation Training Handbook (H-9215-2)

Committee members reviewed and discussed the future of the H-9215-2 (presently in “draft” form).

BLM fireline policy is primarily issued by the following groups: NOC, Aviation, RX Fire, and Dispatch. Aitor Bidaburu is hosting a meeting with the various key contacts at NIFC to discuss how the BLM Fire and Aviation Training Handbook (H-9215-2) can be used effectively to convey training information to the field and to discuss a disconnect that exists between the areas of training and qualifications.

The H-9215-2 is intended to be an information depository for the various policy groups. Although the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations contains most training requirements, the information is not always easily accessible or may be in conflict with other documents and requirements.

The National BLM Wildland Fire Training Committee believes that the H-9215-2 will provide an invaluable tool for facilitating the Training Officer’s duties. In addition to the H-9215-2, a Web site has been created to host the electronic handbook as well as providing resources (forms, publications, links, etc.) for field use.

The H-9215-2 will be a living document with a change issue page for updates. Updates will also be identified with a “new” icon. The BLM Fire Training Unit will keep hard and electronic copies of the document.

Plans are to have the document available for use by the end of February 2007. Once updates to the handbook are made, the document will be available for field review. After the field review, an Instruction Bulletin will be distributed as notification that the H-9215-2 is an official publication.

ACTION: Create a completed sample Position Task Book and administration tips for reference by training officers and evaluators. (Rick Lang, Don Washco, and Pam McDonald)

ACTION: Review and send comments regarding Chapters 1, 2, and 3 upon receipt from Al Olson by December 15. (All Committee Members)

ACTION: Review Chapter 6 and add a section referencing locations where college credits are available that meet IFPM requirements. (Aitor Bidaburu and Don Washco)

ACTION: Determine how “Do What’s Right” training is tracked and determine how it should be documented—manually or through IQCS. (Al Olson)

ACTION: Locate the letter that Larry Sutton and Rick Jensen processed regarding the Resource Advisor. (Al Olson)

ACTION: Locate the IM or NWCG memorandum regarding Ignition Boss going to Firing Boss and forward to Pam McDonald for placement on the BLM Training Web site. (All Committee Members)

ACTION: Review the helicopter crew personnel section for omissions and inaccuracies and submit to Al Olson. (Rick Lang)

ACTION: Review the training payment process section of Chapter 9 (Tony Doty regarding the use of checks; Al Olson will discuss credit cards with Rich Cabalero; Al Olson will discuss SF-182 with NIFC HR.)

ACTION: Revise the Qualification Review section of Chapter 9 (Katie McConnell). Move the sample “Individual Qualification Documentation” and the national preparedness review checklist for training to the Web site “toolbox.”

ACTION: Submit to Al Olson a draft of workforce planning/allocation of resources that Alaska uses for training needs. (Tony Doty)